

What is claimed is:

1. A deformable first toy article that engages a deformable second toy
2 article, the first toy article comprising:
 - a first body including a first handle;
 - 4 a first engager that is adapted to engage a second engager of the
second toy article;
 - 6 a first coupling element that couples the first engager to the first
body and allows for relative rotation between the first engager and the first
8 body; and
 - a first rotation inhibitor that inhibits relative rotation between the first
10 engager and the first body until a predetermined force sufficiently deforms
the first rotation inhibitor to allow for relative rotation between the first
12 engager and the first body.
2. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the predetermined force is
2 imparted on the first rotation inhibitor by the second engager during engagement
between the first toy article and the second toy article.
3. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the engager rotates about an
2 axis following deformation of the first rotation inhibitor and the first coupling
element inhibits movement of the first engager along the axis.
4. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first engager directly
2 engages the second engager.
5. The first toy article of claim 4 wherein the first coupling element is
2 substantially similar to the second coupling element.
6. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first body includes a base
2 region, and wherein the first coupling element is secured to and extends
substantially axially away from the base region to allow the first engager to rotate
4 about the first coupling element.

7. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first body includes a wall
2 region, and wherein the first coupling element is secured to and cantilevers away
from the wall region toward the first engager and wherein the first engager
4 includes a guide slot that receives the first coupling element, the guide slot guiding
rotation of the first engager relative to the first body.

8. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first coupling element is
2 secured to and extends away from the first engager.

9. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first rotation inhibitor does
2 not inhibit movement of the first engager away from the first body.

10. The first toy article of claim 1 wherein the first rotation inhibitor is
2 replaceable.

11. A combination including the toy article of claim 1 and a second toy
2 article, the second toy article including (i) a second body having a second handle,
(ii) a second engager that is adapted to engage the first engager of the first toy
4 article, (iii) a second coupling element that couples the second engager to the
second body and allows for relative rotation between the second engager and the
6 second body; and (iv) a second rotation inhibitor that inhibits relative rotation
between the second engager and the second body until a predetermined force
8 sufficiently deforms the second rotation inhibitor to allow relative rotation between
the second engager and the second body.

12. A combination comprising:
2 a first toy article including (i) a first body having a first handle, (ii) a
first engager, (iii) a first coupling element that couples the first engager to
4 the first body and allows for relative rotation between the first engager and
the first body about a first axis, the first coupling element limiting relative
6 movement between the first engager and the first body along the first axis,
and (iv) a first rotation inhibitor that inhibits relative rotation between the
8 first engager and the first body about the first axis until a first

10 predetermined force sufficiently deforms the first rotation inhibitor to allow
relative rotation between the first engager and the first body about the first
axis; and

12 a second toy article including (i) a second body having a second
14 handle, (ii) a second engager that directly engages the first engager, (iii) a
second coupling element that couples the second engager to the second
16 body and allows for relative rotation between the second engager and the
second body about a second axis, the second coupling element limiting
18 relative movement between the second engager and the second body
along the second axis, and (iv) a second rotation inhibitor that inhibits
relative rotation between the second engager and the second body about
20 the second axis until a second predetermined force sufficiently deforms the
second rotation inhibitor to allow relative rotation between the second
22 engager and the second body about the second axis;

24 wherein relative rotation between the first body and the second body
causes sufficient deformation of one the rotation inhibitors.

13. The combination of claim 12 wherein the first predetermined force
2 on the first rotation inhibitor is imparted via the second engager during
engagement between the first toy article and the second toy article.

14. The combination of claim 12 wherein the first body includes a wall
2 region, and wherein the first coupling element is secured to and cantilevers away
from the wall region toward the first engager.

15. The combination of claim 14 wherein the first engager includes a
2 guide slot that receives the first coupling element, the guide slot guiding rotation of
the engager relative to the first body.

16. The combination of claim 12 wherein the first rotation inhibitor does
2 not inhibit movement of the first engager along the first axis.

17. The combination of claim 12 wherein the first engager and the
2 second engager are substantially identical in shape and size.

18. A method of manufacturing a deformable first toy article, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
providing a first body that includes a handle;
4 providing a first engager that is adapted to directly engage a second
engager of a second toy article;
6 rotatably coupling the first engager to the first body with a first
coupling element; and
8 inhibiting rotation of the first engager relative to the first body using a
deformable first rotation inhibitor, the first rotation inhibitor requiring a
10 predetermined force to cause sufficient deformation of the first rotation
inhibitor so that rotation of the first engager relative to the first body is no
12 longer inhibited.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of rotatably coupling
2 includes continuing to couple the first engager to the first body after rotation of the
first engager is no longer inhibited.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of rotatably coupling
2 includes securing the first coupling element to the first body.